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PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONAL MEDITATIONS FROM THE PSALMS ETC.

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PRAYERS

AND

DEVOTIONAL MEDITATIONS,

COLLATED FROM

THE PSALMS OF DAVID.

BY

ELIHU BURRITT.

LONDON:
SAMUEL BAGSTER AND SONS,
15, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1870.

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CONTENTS.

PREFACE.

READING I. PAGE

Meditations on God's Word 1

PRAYER I.

For grace, guidance, and protection 3

READING II.

Sunday Morning meditations on the presence and worship of God in his house 5

PRAYER II.

Prayer and thanksgiving for God's presence and blessing in his house 7

READING III.

God's goodness, power, and glory in his works 10

PRAYER III.

Prayer and thanks for God's provident care and tender mercies . 13

READING IV.

God's power, guardianship, and protection 16

PRAYER IV.

Prayer and thanksgiving for God's goodness, protecting power, and providence 19

READING V.

God all-seeing, almighty, and all-sustaining 21

PRAYER V.

Prayer and thanks for God's almighty and all-sustaining power, grace, and providence 24

READING VI.

Family and social meditations on God's protecting power, goodness, and blessing 27

PRAYER VI.

Thanks for God's protecting power, and prayer for his daily blessing 30

READING VII. PAGE
God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand 32

PRAYER VII.
Thanks and prayer for God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand 36

READING VIII.
Consciousness and confession of sinful dispositions and acts . 39

PRAYER VIII.
Confession of sins, and prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation. 41

READING IX.
Meditations in affliction and trouble 43

PRAYER IX.
In affliction, trouble and sorrow 46

READING X.
Meditations in sickness 49

PRAYER X.
Petition in sickness, for patience, resignation, hope, and restoration 52

READING XI.
Meditations on recovery and deliverance 55

PRAYER XI.
Thanks for recovery and deliverance, and petition for gratitude and faith in God 58

READING XII.
Words and meditations of patriarchs, prophets, and saints, over the grave 61

PRAYER XII.
Prayers of the psalmist, prophets, and saints, over the grave . 69

Order of Collation 81

PREFACE.

As no human character is so fully delineated in the Bible for our instruction as David's, so none of the sacred writers have recorded experiences, thoughts, and sentiments so human, and so apposite and applicable to every possible condition of human life, as those we find in his Psalms. No man, woman, or child, in this or in any age to come, can pass through any experience of affliction, joy, or sorrow, without being able to find in these words of David a prayer or thanksgiving, breathing full of the feeling the heart would express. In these prayers and thanksgivings, he gives us the history of his own personal, inner life; and it is the only autobiography the Bible contains. We have the histories of Noah, Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, Solomon, Job, Daniel, and other patriarchs and prophets. But they are all silent as to those inward experiences which are most common and human to every soul of man. They confess to no sins of thought, word, or deed. Even Jacob, wrestling with the angel, with all his life behind him in fresh remembrance, does not pray as a penitent sinner. Job confesses to no sin; and as he lies complaining in the dust, he almost boasts of his perfection. These fathers of the faithful hardly shew us a human side to which we may lean for fellowship and sympathy in our weaknesses. But in David we have a complete and common humanity, with all its falls and fears, its hours of fainting faith, its longings, hopes, and sorrows, its sharp and sudden temptations and trials. In all these characteristics, he comes to us in two histories; one written by another biographer, the other by himself, in words which will breathe with the life of everlasting truth to the world's end.

The biography of David introduces him to us as a boy, and describes the strange vicissitudes through which he passed to the throne of Israel, and which followed him all the years that he filled it. No man ever did or could pass through a greater variety of conditions. He was hunted like a partridge on the mountains by a powerful and jealous king, as an outlawed pretender to the crown. As an outlaw he lived in caves, and other hiding-places, in daily peril of his life. When these failed him for safety, he took refuge with the

old hereditary enemies of his country; even offering to accompany them on their raids upon it. Sometimes he played the crazy man at a heathen court to obtain its favour. When at last the crown was set upon his head, such a series of aggravated family troubles as few kings ever knew, came upon him in quick and painful succession. His best beloved son attempted to dethrone, banish, and even kill him. Another son committed a most abominable crime. Nearly all his children seem to have troubled him exceedingly with their conduct. Then he himself fell before temptation into such great sins that the whole nation was punished severely for one of them, and he personally for others. Such is the history of David's public and private life, as written for us by a pen not his own, and written without palliation of his sinful, or exaggeration of his good deeds.

In his Psalms we have David's inner life written by himself. We have his thoughts and emotions in all these sad and sudden vicissitudes, as he was passing through them. We hear the very cry of his soul to God for help when they rent him with affliction. We feel the pulse of his joy when the Divine hand lifted him out of the miry clay and horrible pit, and set him upon a rock of safety. We hear his pleading prayer for forgiveness as he lies and cries with his lips in the dust under the weight of a great sin. His voice, sad, low, and soft, with sick-bed accent, comes to us from his night-hours of sleepless pain and languishing, or gushing with the most human tenderness from the new-made grave of a child loved as fathers love. He has a word for every affliction, hope, joy, fear, faith or weakness, that any human heart can feel.

It is for these qualities that the Psalms of David, even under the brightest sunlight of Gospel revelation and Christian faith, have been so prized and used for devotional meditations and exercises. Indeed, it may be allowed a Christian to wish that some one of the disciples of Christ had given us in full one of those prayers which he addressed to his Father at times, when he felt the burden of humanity with its weaknesses heaviest upon him; one of those prayers which the midnight heard, when he was sorely tried with the ills and temptations which that human flesh was heir to which he had taken upon him for our salvation. Or if one of the company that kneeled around St. Paul on the sea-shore, could have given us the prayer which he put up for them and himself, when his heart was soft with the tenderest emotions of human nature at the parting, it would have been a precious heritage to the Christian world. But David wrote his whole life in his prayers and songs of praise and thanksgiving. These contain more of supplication to the Heavenly Father than all the other sacred books put together—supplication for the individual

soul, in all its conditions of feeling and experience, and for every social fellowship of prayer, great or small. It is an interesting coincidence, that the Psalms are nearly equally divided between invocation and meditation; and also between prayers for the individual in his closet, and prayers for the family circle or the greater circle of the sanctuary.

But in the very structure of the Psalms we have a resemblance to the incidents of David's life. Like the vicissitudes which marked it, the transitions in almost every psalm are wide and sudden, both in subject and sentiment. Indeed, the very next verse to one full of tender and beautiful feeling, often expresses a sentiment which no Christian heart can adopt or approve; and one might well wonder how his could have moved with two such different emotions the same hour or even day. It is as if, when lifting up his soul on the mountain-tops in lofty communion with the moon and stars, as the work of his Father's fingers, and while it was soaring with the divine afflatus to higher visions of His glory, he suddenly heard the footsteps of his pursuers, that were hunting him from cave to cave, from one hiding-place to another. One may well conceive that such transitions of condition and feeling must have come in the space between many a couple of verses seemingly penned or uttered in the same hour. These transitions of subject and sentiment are so frequent, that there are only two or three psalms in the whole collection perfectly relevant to Christian meditation and prayer in private or public devotions. But, in reading through the whole, the continuity of every special line of reflection, or character of sentiment, may be clearly traced across these breaks, or intersecting subjects.

This is the work which the compiler of these Prayers and Devotional Meditations felt would be useful and even welcome to thousands who look to the Psalms of David for thoughts and sentiments most in sympathy with those they would make their own in their religious exercises and daily life. He has taken twelve different subjects, or lines of reflection, and traced each coherently to its natural development and conclusion. In doing this, he has collated verses from ten to twenty different psalms on the principle of Handel's Messiah, selecting them for such mutual relevancy that they might seem to have been written or composed originally in the order in which he has placed them. In the first place, a Reading, or Lesson, is thus collated or compiled, of the length of an ordinary chapter in the New Testament, and dwelling upon one general subject. Then a Prayer is compiled in the same way, which the Reading might naturally inspire or suggest.

The compiler believes that the Reading and Prayer for the Sick will be found especially useful. He earnestly desired to make them so, not only to

invalids who are able to read for themselves, but to Bible-Readers, who read the Scriptures to those prostrated on a bed of languishing. He has put into this special Reading and Prayer the most tender and consoling verses to be found in fifty different psalms. The Reading and Prayer for Funerals embrace selections not only from the Psalms but from other books, both of the Old and New Testaments; and it is believed that they, or portions of them, will be found appropriate for meditations over the grave.

In the hope that this little labour of love will be useful to those who personally test its worth, the compiler respectfully commends it, and dedicates it to their service.

OXFORD:
June, 1870.

PRAYERS

AND

DEVOTIONAL MEDITATIONS.

READING I.

Meditations on God's Word.

BLESSED is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

The words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Good and upright is the Lord: therefore will he teach sinners in the way. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him: and he will shew them his covenant. The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. The word of the Lord is right, and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousnss shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord shall give that which is good; and our land shall yield her increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and shall set us in the way of his steps. Blessed be the Lord for evermore. Amen, and amen.

PRAYER I.

For grace, guidance, and protection.

GIVE ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King and my God; for unto thee will I pray. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up. Preserve me, O God, for in thee do I put my trust. Keep me as the apple of the eye; hide me under the shadow of thy wings. Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God; incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. Shew thy marvellous loving-kindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Shew me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day long. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to thy mercy remember thou me, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord. Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou

my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; save me for thy mercies' sake. O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles. Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy; yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee; my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. Because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice!

Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live and keep thy word. Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord: quicken me according to thy judgments. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.

READING II.

Sunday Morning meditations on the presence and worship of God in his house.

THE Lord is in his holy temple; the Lord's throne is in heaven; his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. One thing have I desired of the Lord; that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me upon a rock.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness. Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. God is known in her palaces for a refuge. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and will praise the Lord. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord.

The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. Of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her; and the Highest himself shall establish her. The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. For who in heaven can be compared unto the Lord? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord? The Lord is our defence, and the Holy One of Israel is our King.

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek thy good. We will go into his tabernacles; we will worship at his footstool.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

PRAYER II.

Prayer and thanksgiving for God's presence and blessing in his house.

How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be still praising thee. They go from strength to strength; every one of them in Zion appeareth before God. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts; we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. I will go into thy house with burnt offerings; I will pay thee my vows, which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble.

Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth. My foot standeth in an even place; in the congregations will I bless the Lord. I will give thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise thee among much people.

Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth. Thy word is true from the beginning, and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. Thou art near, O Lord, and all thy commandments are truth. Righteous art thou, O Lord, and upright are thy judgments. Thy testimonies that thou hast commanded are righteous and very faithful.

I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle. Let thy mercies come also unto me, O Lord, even thy salvation, according to thy word. Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath quickened me. I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my

mouth. My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant, for I do not forget thy commandments. Order my steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. Arise, O Lord, into thy rest; thou and the ark of thy strength. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy.

READING III.

God's goodness, power, and glory in his works.

O CLAP your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our King; sing praises. For God is the King of all the earth; sing ye praises with understanding. God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people.

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands; sing forth the honour of his name; make his praise glorious. Sing unto God, sing praises to his name; extol him that rideth upon the heavens by his name JAH, and rejoice before him. O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of his praise to be heard; which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment. He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor. He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the

souls of the needy. He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence; and precious shall their blood be in his sight. He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth. The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.

Sing unto God, yè kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; to him that rideth upon the heavens of heavens, which were of old: lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. His lightnings enlightened the world: the earth saw, and trembled. The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise thy God, O Zion. For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates; he hath blessed thy children within thee. He maketh peace in thy borders, and fillest thee with the finest of the wheat. He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth; his word runneth very swiftly. He giveth snow like wool; he scattereth the hoar frost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels; who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them; he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow.

Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels; praise ye him, all his hosts. Praise ye him, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he commanded, and they were created. He hath also stablished them for

ever and ever; he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens; old men and children, praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him for his mighty acts; praise him according to his excellent greatness. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

PRAYER III.

Prayer and thanks for God's provident care and tender mercies.

For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations; thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances; for all are thy servants. Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. O how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man; thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

We have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what work thou didst in their days, in the times of old. O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness, the earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God; even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance when it was weary. Thy congregation hath dwelt therein; thou, O God, hast prepared of thy goodness for the poor.

O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine; as for the world and the fulness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south, thou hast created them; Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. Thou hast a mighty arm; strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne; mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed are the people that know the joyful sound; they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day; and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks; for that thy name is near, thy wondrous works declare. All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary; who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders; thou hast declared thy strength among the people. Arise, O God, judge the earth; for thou shalt inherit all nations. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things; thou art God alone.

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High: to shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night. O Lord, how great are thy works! and thy thoughts are very deep. Thy throne is established of old; thou art from everlasting. Of old thou hast laid the foundation of the

earth; and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure; yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens, and thy glory above all the earth.

READING IV.

God's power, guardianship, and protection.

THE heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob. Which by his strength setteth fast the mountains, being girded with power; which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion; bless the Lord, O my soul.

The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever; the Lord shall rejoice in his works. He looketh on the earth, and it trembleth; he toucheth the hills, and they smoke. He watereth the hills from his chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle,

and herbs for the service of man, that he may bring forth food out of the earth. He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field; the wild asses quench their thirst. By them shall the fowls of heaven have their habitation, which sing among the branches. He appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Man goeth forth unto his work and unto his labour until evening. The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. The sun ariseth; they gather themselves together, and lay them down in their dens.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters—these see the works of the Lord, and his wonders in the deep. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven; they go down again to the depths; their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and fro, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end. Then they cry unto the Lord in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders. He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water-springs into dry ground; a fruitful land into barren-

ness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water-springs; and there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation, and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly, and suffereth not their cattle to decrease. Again they are minished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow. He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way. Yet setteth he up the poor on high from affliction, and maketh him families like a flock. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord.

PRAYER IV.

Prayer and thanksgiving for God's goodness, protecting power, and providence.

O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet; all sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! Be thou exalted, Lord, in thine own strength; so will we sing and praise thy power. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered; they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance; feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought

for them that trust in thee before the sons of men! Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man; thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues. For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found; surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy lovingkindness unto them that know thee, and thy righteousness to the upright in heart.

Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward; they cannot be reckoned up in order before thee; if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever; the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple. According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth; thy right hand is full of righteousness. Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Sion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

READING V.

God all-seeing, almighty, and all-sustaining.

SING praises to the Lord, which dwelleth in Zion: declare among the people his doings. For the kingdom is the Lord's; and he is the governor among the nations. The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory. He rode upon a cherub, and did fly; yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured; coals were kindled by it. At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire. The Lord also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hail stones and coals of fire. Yea, he sent out his arrows and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them. Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth. Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were

discovered at thy rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of thy nostrils. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thundereth; the Lord is upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The Lord sitteth upon the flood; yea, the Lord sitteth King for ever. The Lord will give strength unto his people; the Lord will bless his people with peace. By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. The Lord shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the Lord.

The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he-goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon

a thousand hills. I know all the fowls of the mountains; and the wild beasts of the field are mine. If I were hungry, I would not tell thee; for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High; and call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me; and to him who ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen. He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise. Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm. With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together before the Lord; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

PRAYER V.

Prayer and thanks for God's almighty and all-sustaining power, grace, and providence.

O THOU that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea; which by his strength setteth fast the mountains, being girded with power; which stilleth the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; thou settlest the furrows thereof; thou makest it soft with showers; thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the little hills rejoice on every side. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with corn; they shout for joy, they also sing.

O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honour and majesty. Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment; who stretchest

out the heavens like a curtain; who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters; who maketh the clouds his chariot; who walketh upon the wings of the wind; who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire. Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever. Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains. At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away. They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them. Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth. Thou makest darkness, and it is night; wherein all the beasts of the forest do creep forth. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. So is this wide and great sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships; there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good. Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled; thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created; and thou renewest the face of the earth.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy riches. Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength; thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness. Thou didst cleave the fountain and the

flood; thou driedst up mighty rivers. The day is thine, the night also is thine: thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter. Thou hast ascended on high; thou hast led captivity captive; thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among men. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Thou didst cause judgment to be heard from heaven; the earth feared and was still, when God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth. At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob, both the chariot and horse are cast into a deep sleep. Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee; and the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain. Have respect unto thy covenant; for the dark places of the earth are full of the habitations of cruelty. O let not the oppressed return ashamed; let the poor and needy praise thy name. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die.

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord; thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.

READING VI.

Family and social meditations on God's protecting power, goodness, and blessing.

SING unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, all ye righteous; and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; for praise is comely for the upright. God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though the waters thereof roar and be troubled; though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early. As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the Lord of hosts, in the city of our God; God will establish it for ever. Walk about Zion, and go round about her; tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces, that ye may tell it to the generation following. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our

guide even unto death. God shall bless us, and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the deep places of the earth; the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth. Sing unto the Lord; bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before him, all the earth. Say among the heathen that the Lord reigneth; the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved; he shall judge the people righteously. Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof. Let the field be joyful, and all that is therein: then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord: for he cometh, for he

cometh to judge the earth; he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with truth. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people; and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting, and his truth endureth to all generations.

PRAYER VI.

Thanks for God's protecting power, and prayer for his daily blessing.

God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks; for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare. Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Remember thy congregation, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt.

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth. Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine, and we shall be saved. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever; we will shew forth thy praise to all generations. O satisfy us early with thy mercy, that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy and for thy truth's sake. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace; that our garners may be full, affording all manner of store; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets; that our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee; and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified.

READING VII.

God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand.

GREAT is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable. While I live will I praise the Lord. I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being. I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger; but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing. Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth. The Lord will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing; thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.

Sing unto God, ye kingdoms of the earth; O sing praises unto the Lord; to him that rideth upon

the heavens of heavens, which were of old: lo, he doth send out his voice, and that a mighty voice. Ascribe ye strength unto God; his excellency is over Israel, and his strength is in the clouds. In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel. In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling-place in Zion. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. He that planted the ear, shall he not hear? he that formed the eye, shall he not see? He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man knowledge, shall not he know? The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man, that they are vanity. But judgment shall return unto righteousness; and all the upright in heart shall follow it. This shall be written for the generation to come; and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord.

The Lord reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved. The Lord is great in Zion; and he is high above all people. Exalt ye the Lord our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him; talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength; seek his face evermore. Remember his marvellous works that he hath done; his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. His work is honourable and glorious; and

his righteousness endureth for ever. He hath given meat unto them that fear him; he will ever be mindful of his covenant. The works of his hand are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.

Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious and full of compassion, and righteous. A good man sheweth favour, and lendeth: he will guide his affairs with discretion. Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. Blessed be the name of the Lord, from this time forth for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same, the Lord's name is to be praised. The Lord is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens. Who is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, who humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!

They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth, even for ever. Ye that stand in the house of the Lord, in the courts of the house of our God, praise the Lord; for the Lord is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant. For I know that the Lord is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places. He causeth the vapours to ascend from the ends of the earth; he maketh lightnings for the rain; he bringeth the wind

out of his treasuries. O give thanks to the Lord of lords; for his mercy endureth for ever. To him who alone doeth great wonders; for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that by wisdom made the heavens; for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that stretched out the earth above the waters; for his mercy endureth for ever. To him that made great lights; for his mercy endureth for ever: the sun to rule by day; for his mercy endureth for ever: the moon and stars to rule by night; for his mercy endureth for ever. And blessed be his glorious name for ever; and let the whole earth be filled with his glory; Amen and Amen.

PRAYER VII.

Thanks and prayer for God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand.

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me: Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path, and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. How precious also are thy thoughts

unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity; and let me not eat of their dainties.

Mine eyes are unto thee, O God the Lord: in thee is my trust; leave not my soul destitute. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee. I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I put my trust. The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen to me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage. As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness. For thou wilt light my candle: the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation; and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name. I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will

remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone. Thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, long suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. I will greatly praise the Lord with my mouth; yea, I will praise him among the multitude. I will delight myself in thy statutes; I will not forget thy word. Cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee. Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. And men shall speak of the might of thy terrible acts; and I will declare thy greatness. They shall abundantly utter the memory of thy great goodness, and shall sing of thy righteousness. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.

READING VIII.

Consciousness and confession of sinful dispositions and acts.

MINE iniquities are gone over my head; as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance and my God. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he that trusteth in the Lord, mercy shall compass him about. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud; and he shall hear my voice. For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin.

The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all; and his tender mercies are over all his works. They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. The Lord lifteth up the meek; he casteth the wicked down to the ground. He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered; the Lord is

gracious, and full of compassion. He sent redemption unto his people; he hath commanded his covenant for ever; holy and reverend is his name. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all they that do his commandments; his praise endureth for ever. Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the Lord. For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee. The Lord shall bless thee out of Zion, and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life.

Let Israel hope in the Lord; for with the Lord there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies. The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way. Good and upright is the Lord; therefore will he teach sinners in the way. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net. What man is he that desireth life, and loveth many days, that he may see good? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

PRAYER VIII.

Confession of sins, and prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation.

HAVE mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving-kindness; according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Lord, I cry unto thee; make haste unto me; give

ear unto my voice, when I cry unto thee. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications; in thy faithfulness answer me, and in thy righteousness. And enter not into judgment with thy servant; for in thy sight shall no man living be justified. I stretch forth my hands unto thee; my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice; let thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications. If thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight. Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. Quicken me after thy loving-kindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live; and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe; and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O Lord, and teach me thy judgments. Look thou upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do unto those that love thy name. Order my steps in thy word; and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Hear the voice of my supplications, when I cry unto thee, when I lift up my hands toward thy holy oracle. As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

READING IX.

Meditations in affliction and trouble.

WHY art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in, from this time forth, and even for evermore. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,

all ye that hope in the Lord. When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. For he hath not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; neither hath he hid his face from him; but when he cried unto him, he heard. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek him: your heart shall live for ever. God hath spoken once: twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. For the Lord will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Surely he shall not be moved for ever; the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes. The Lord hath chastened me sore; but he hath not given me over unto death. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God; which made heaven, and earth, the sea, and all that therein is: which keepeth truth for ever; which executeth judgment for the oppressed; which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners: the Lord openeth the eyes of the blind; the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down; the Lord loveth the righteous. The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he will also hear their cry, and will save them. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

PRAYER IX.

In affliction, trouble and sorrow.

GIVE ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication. Attend unto me, and hear me: I mourn in my complaint, and make a noise. My heart is sore pained within me; and the terrors of death are fallen upon me. Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me. And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest. Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me; for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever. Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul. I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing: I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me. I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God. O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee. Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of

Israel. Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink. Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me. Hear me, O Lord; for thy loving-kindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies; and hide not thy face from thy servant, for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.

In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust: let me never be put to confusion. Deliver me in thy righteousness, and cause me to escape: incline thine ear unto me, and save me. Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. Let my mouth be filled with thy praise and with thy honour all the day. For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth. Bow down thine ear, O Lord, hear me; for I am poor and needy. Be merciful unto me, O Lord; for I cry unto thee daily. Rejoice the soul of thy servant; for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry; for my soul is full of troubles, and my life draweth nigh unto the grave. Thou hast laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the deeps. Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: Lord, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee. For I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. I am gone like the shadow when it declineth: I am tossed up and down as the locust. My knees are weak through fasting; and my flesh faileth of fatness. But do thou for me, O God the Lord, for thy name's sake: because thy

mercy is good, deliver thou me. My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about, for thou shalt deal bountifully with me. Save now, I beseech thee, O Lord: O Lord, I beseech thee, send now prosperity.

READING X.

Meditations in sickness.

TRULY my soul waiteth upon God; from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved. I call to remembrance my song in the night; I commune with my own heart; and my spirit made diligent search. Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? And I said, This is my infirmity; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. My heart panteth, my strength faileth me; as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God. The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me upon a rock.

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth

me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee; send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion; remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice; grant thee according to thine own heart; and fulfil all thy counsel. He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me. Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. For the word of the Lord is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment; the earth is full of the goodness of the Lord. The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever; the thoughts of his heart to all generations. The Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones; not one of them is broken. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. The Lord knoweth the days of the upright; and their inheritance shall be for ever. They shall not be ashamed in the evil time; and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied. For the Lord heareth the poor, and despiseth not his prisoners. My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my

heart, and my portion for ever. Unless the Lord had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.

When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; to hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed unto death. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. He satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness; such as sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron.

I am poor and needy, and my heart is wounded within me. I am gone like the shadow when it declineth; I am tossed up and down as the locust. My knees are weak through fasting, and my flesh faileth for fatness. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill. He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great. I know that the Lord will maintain the cause of the afflicted, and the right of the poor. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him; he will also hear their cry, and will save them. He giveth to the beast his food, and to the young ravens that cry. The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy. Let Israel hope in the Lord from henceforth and for ever.

PRAYER X.

Petition in sickness, for patience, resignation, hope, and restoration.

HEAR my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come unto thee. Hide not thy face from me in the day when I am in trouble; incline thine ear unto me; in the day when I call, answer me speedily. For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned as an hearth. My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread. By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin. O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are vexed. My soul is also sore vexed; but thou, O Lord, how long? Return, O Lord, deliver my soul; oh save me for thy mercy's sake. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks? I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears. My days are like a shadow that declineth; and I am withered like grass. O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days: thy years are throughout all generations. Be not thou far from me, O Lord; O my strength, haste thee to help me. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.

Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged: O bring thou me out of my distresses. Remember, O Lord, thy tender mercies and thy loving-kindnesses; for they have been ever of old. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice; have mercy also upon me, and answer me. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger; thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me: Lord, be thou my helper. For my life is spent with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength faileth because of mine iniquity, and my bones are consumed. Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; save me for thy mercies' sake. I am troubled; I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with a loathsome disease; and there is no soundness in my flesh. I am feeble and sore broken; I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee. Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God, be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.

Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is, that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an hand-breadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee. Verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Remove thy stroke away from me; I am consumed by the blow of thine hand. When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth. Surely every man is vanity. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto

my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears; for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more. Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me: O Lord, make haste to help me. What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. Cast me not off in the time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth. O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help. Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

Remember me, O Lord, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people; that I may see the good of thy chosen; that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation; that I may glory with thine inheritance. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight. My soul fainteth for thy salvation; but I hope in thy word. Let my supplication come before thee: deliver me according to thy word. Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments. I am poor and needy: make haste unto me, O God: thou art my help and my deliverer; O Lord, make no tarrying. And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

READING XI.

Meditations on recovery and deliverance.

THE Lord is my rock and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried unto my God; he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears. I called upon the Lord in distress; the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is my strength, and song; and is become my salvation. Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped; therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I praise him. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him. I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise

unto our God. Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord. My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, are in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us.

Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul. I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue. Verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer. Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust; his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone. Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits; who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth

thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. I love the Lord, because he hath heard my voice and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord; O Lord, I beseech thee, deliver my soul. I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord; my sore ran in the night, and ceased not; my soul refused to be comforted. I remembered God, and was troubled; I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. The Lord hath chastened me sore; but he hath not given me over to death. Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever.

PRAYER XI.

Thanks for recovery and deliverance, and petition for gratitude and faith in God.

O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave; thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit. O Lord, my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. I cried to thee, O Lord; and unto the Lord I made supplication. Lord, by thy favour thou hast made my mountain to stand strong; thou didst hide thy face, and I was troubled. Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing; thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness. I will be glad and rejoice in thy mercy; for thou hast considered my trouble; thou hast known my soul in adversities. Into thy hand I commit my spirit; thou hast redeemed me; O Lord God of truth. Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. I will give thee thanks in the great congregation; I will praise thee among much people. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness, and of thy praise all the day long.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee; my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is. My soul followeth hard after thee; thy right hand upholdeth me. Thus will I bless thee while I live; I will lift up my hands in thy name. Because thy

loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips, when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. I will go into thy house with burnt-offerings; I will pay thee my vows, which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble. My mouth shall shew forth thy righteousness and thy salvation all the day; for I know not the numbers thereof. I will go in the strength of the Lord God; I will make mention of thy righteousness, even of thine only.

Thy righteousness also, O God, is very high, who hast done great things: O God, who is like unto thee? Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing unto thee, and my soul, which thou hast redeemed. For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling. O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid; thou hast loosed my bonds. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness and for thy truth; for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou wilt revive me. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me; thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever; forsake not the works of thine own hands.

I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes. Before I was afflicted I went astray; but now I have kept thy word. Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in thy word. Unless thy law had been my delight, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts; for with them thou hast quickened me. I opened my mouth and panted; for I longed for thy commandments. I prevented the dawn of the morning, and cried; I hoped in thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. Seven times a day do I praise thee, because of thy righteous judgments. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Teach me thy way, O Lord; I will walk in thy truth; unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart; and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

READING XII.

Words and meditations of patriarchs, prophets, and saints, over the grave.

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE SHALT THOU EAT BREAD, TILL THOU RETURN UNTO THE GROUND; FOR OUT OF IT WAST THOU TAKEN: FOR DUST THOU ART, AND UNTO DUST SHALT THOU RETURN.
—*God to Adam.*

AND all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years; and he died. . . . . And all the days of Noah were nine hundred and fifty years; and he died. . . . . And Sarah died in Kirjath-arba; the same is Hebron, in the land of Canaan; and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her. And Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spake unto the sons of Heth, saying, I am a stranger and sojourner with you: give me a possession of a burying place with you, that I may bury my dead out of my sight. And the children of Heth answered Abraham, saying unto him, Hear us, my lord: thou art a mighty prince among us: in the choice of our sepulchres bury thy dead; none of us shall withhold from thee his sepulchre, but that thou mayest bury thy dead. . . . . And after this, Abraham buried Sarah his wife in the cave of the field of Machpelah, before Mamre; the same is Hebron, in the land of

Caanan. . . . . Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years, and was gathered to his people. And his sons Isaac and Ishmael buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron—the field which Abraham purchased of the sons of Heth: there was Abraham buried, and Sarah his wife. . . . . And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned. . . . . And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days; and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him. . . . . All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this it is that their father spake unto them and blessed them: every one according to his blessing he blessed them. And he charged them, and said unto them, I am to be gathered unto my people: bury me with my fathers in the cave that is in the field of Ephron the Hittite. . . . . There they buried Abraham and Sarah his wife; there they buried Isaac and Rebekah his wife; and there I buried Leah. . . . . And when Jacob had made an end of commanding his sons, he gathered up his feet into the bed, and yielded up the ghost, and was gathered unto his people. And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him. . . . . And his sons did unto him according as he commanded them: for his sons carried him into the land of Canaan, and buried him in the cave of the field of Machpelah, which Abraham bought with the field for a possession of a burying place of Ephron the Hittite, before Mamre. . . . . And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took

an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence. So Joseph died, being an hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt. . . . . And the Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in mount Hor, by the coast of the land of Edom, saying . . . . Take Aaron and Eleazar his son, and bring them up unto mount Hor: and strip Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son: and Aaron shall be gathered unto his people, and shall die there. And Moses did as the Lord commanded: and they went up into mount Hor in the sight of all the congregation. And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount. And when all the congregation saw that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days, even all the house of Israel. . . . And the Lord spake unto Moses that selfsame day, saying, Get thee up into this mountain Abarim, unto mount Nebo, which is in the land of Moab, that is over against Jericho; and behold the land of Caanan, which I give unto the children of Israel for a possession: and die in the mount whither thou goest up, and be gathered unto thy people; as Aaron thy brother died in mount Hor, and was gathered unto his people: because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadish, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel. Yet thou shalt see the land before thee; but thou shalt not go thither unto the land which I give the children of Israel. . . . . And Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to

the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. . . . . And the Lord shewed him all the land . . . . And the Lord said unto him, This is the land which I sware unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, saying, I will give it unto thy seed: I have caused thee to see it with thine eyes, but thou shalt not go over thither. So Moses the servant of the Lord died there in the land of Moab, according to the word of the Lord. And he buried him in the valley in the land of Moab, over against Beth-peor: but no man knoweth of his sepulchre unto this day. . . . . And the children of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. . . . . And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God. So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance. And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died, being an hundred and ten years old. And they buried him in the border of his inheritance in Timnath-serah, which is in mount Ephraim, on the north side of the hill of Gaash. And the bones of Joseph, which the children of Israel brought up out of Egypt, buried they in Shechem, in a parcel of ground which Jacob bought of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for an hundred pieces of silver; and it became the inheritance of the children of Joseph. . . . . Now the Philistines fought against Israel; and the men of Israel fled from before the Philistines, and fell down slain in mount Gilboa. And the Philistines

followed hard upon Saul, and upon his sons; and the Philistines slew Jonathan and Abinadab, and Melchishua, Saul's sons. And the battle went sore against Saul, and the archers hit him; and he was sore wounded of the archers. Then said Saul unto his armour-bearer, Draw thy sword, and thrust me through therewith; lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and abuse me. But his armour-bearer would not, for he was sore afraid. Therefore Saul took a sword and fell upon it. And when his armour-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he fell likewise upon his sword, and died with him. So Saul died and his three sons, and his armour-bearer, and all his men, that same day together. . . . . And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: . . . . The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places; how are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings; for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil.. . . . Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights; who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thy high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful,

passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

And the Lord struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick. David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth. And the elders of his house arose, and went to him, to raise him up from the earth; but he would not, neither did he eat bread with them. And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice. How will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead? But when David saw that his servants whispered, David perceived that the child was dead; therefore David said unto his servants, Is the child dead? And they said, He is dead. Then David arose from the earth, and washed, and anointed himself, and changed his apparel, and came into the house of the Lord, and worshipped: then he came to his own house; and when he required, they set bread before him, and he did eat. Then said his servants unto him, What thing is this that thou hast done? thou didst fast and weep for the child, while it was alive, but when the child was dead, thou didst arise, and eat bread. And he said, While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, Who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me. . . . . While he was yet speaking, there came also another and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest

brother's house; and, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord. In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly.

JESUS SAID UNTO HER, I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE: HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE. AND WHOSOEVER LIVETH AND BELIEVETH IN ME SHALL NEVER DIE.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.—*Simeon.*

And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.—*The dying thief.*

And Jesus said unto him, Verily, I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said this, he gave up the ghost.

And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? . . . . For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better: nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.—*St. Paul.*

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven, saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away . . . . And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely . . . . He which testifieth these things saith, Surely, I come quickly. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.—*St. John.*

PRAYER XII.

Prayers of the psalmist, prophets, and saints, over the grave.

PRAYER OF DAVID.

LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. Thou turnest man to destruction; and sayest, Return, ye children of men. For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood; they are as a sleep: in the morning they are like grass which groweth up. In the morning it flourisheth and groweth up; in the evening it is cut down and withereth. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?

Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart; thou wilt cause thine ear to hear. O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us; for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name; and

deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake. Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. So will we not go back from thee: quicken us, and we will call upon thy name. Wilt thou not revive us again; that thy people may rejoice in thee? Shew us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation! Thy name, O Lord, endureth for ever; and thy memorial, O Lord, throughout all generations. Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee. God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and cause his face to shine upon us.

PRAYER OF JOB.

Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me; when his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness; as I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle; when the Almighty was yet with me, when my children were about me. I have sinned; what shall I do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? why hast thou set me as a mark against thee, so that I am a burden to myself? Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling? As a servant earnestly desireth the shadow, and as an hireling looketh for

the reward of his work; so am I made to possess months of vanity, and wearisome nights are appointed to me. When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? And I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day. My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. O remember that my life is wind: mine eye shall no more see good. The eye of him that hath seen me shall see me no more. Therefore I will not refrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul. What is man, that thou shouldest magnify him? and that thou shouldest set thy heart upon him? and that thou shouldest visit him every morning, and try him every moment?

I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me. Hast thou eyes of flesh? or seest thou as man seeth? Are thy days as the days of man? are thy years as man's days, that thou enquirest after mine iniquity, and searchest after my sin? Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again? Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews. Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit. Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. And dost thou open thine eyes upon such an one, and bringest me into judgment with thee? Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee; thou hast appointed his

bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish as an hireling his day. For there is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me. Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.

PRAYER OF ISAIAH.

O Lord, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth; for the Lord hath spoken it. Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. The way of the just is

uprightness; thou most upright dost weigh the path of the just. Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Lord, thou wilt ordain peace for us; for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. Lord, in trouble have they visited thee; they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. O Lord, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee; be thou their arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble. All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the Spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the word of our God shall stand for ever. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? Therefore the redeemed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their head; they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away. Doubtless thou art our Father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge

us not: thou, O Lord, art our Father, our Redeemer; thy name is from everlasting. But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away. But now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand. Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity for ever; behold, see, we beseech thee, we are all thy people. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

PRAYER OF JEREMIAH.

O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing. Righteous art thou, O Lord, when I plead with thee; yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments. O Lord, though our iniquities testify against us, do thou it for thy name's sake; for our backslidings are many; we have sinned against thee. O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? O Lord, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from thee shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters. Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved; for

thou art my praise. Be not a terror unto me: thou art my hope in the day of evil.

O Lord God, behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee. Thou shewest lovingkindness unto thousands, and recompensest the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them: the great, the mighty God, the Lord of hosts, is his name, great in counsel, and mighty in work; for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men; to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. Behold, O Lord, for I am in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; for I have grievously rebelled: abroad the sword bereaveth, at home there is as death. And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgat prosperity. And I said, My strength and my hope is perished from the Lord; remembering mine affliction and my misery—the wormwood and the gall. My soul hath them still in remembrance, and is humbled in me. This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope: it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath borne it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; if so be there may be hope. For the Lord will not cast off for ever: but though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies. For he doth not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men. Thou hast heard my voice: hide not thine ear

at my breathing, at my cry. Thou drewest near in the day that I called upon thee: thou saidst, Fear not. O Lord, thou hast pleaded the causes of my soul; thou hast redeemed my life.

Remember, O Lord, what is come upon us; consider, and behold our reproach. The elders have ceased from the gate, the young men from their music. The joy of our heart is ceased; our dance is turned into mourning. The crown is fallen from our head: woe unto us, that we have sinned! For this our heart is faint; for these things our eyes are dim. Turn thou us unto thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old. Thou, O Lord, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.

PRAYERS OF OTHER PROPHETS.

O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; we have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments. O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him: neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. Now therefore, O my God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary, that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and

do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God; for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.—*Daniel.*

I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord; and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice. For thou hadst cast me into the deep, in the midst of the seas; and the floods compassed me about; all thy billows and thy waves passed over me. Then I said, I am cast out of thy sight; yet I will look again toward thy holy temple. The waters compassed me about, even to the soul: the depth closed me round about; the weeds were wrapped about my head. I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me for ever; yet hast thou brought up my life from corruption, O Lord my God. When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the Lord; and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord.—*Jonah.*

O Lord, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O Lord, revive thy work in the midst of the years; in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. I saw the tents of Cushan in affliction; and the curtains of the land of Midian did tremble. The mountains saw thee, and they trembled: the overflowing of the water passed by: the deep uttered his voice, and lifted up his hands on high. The sun and moon stood still in their habitation; at the light of thine arrows they went, and at the shining of thy glittering spear. Thou wentest forth for the salvation of thy people, even for salvation with thine anointed; thou woundedst the head

out of the house of the wicked, by discovering the foundation unto the neck. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labour of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls; yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will joy in the God of my salvation.—*Habakkuk.*

I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE.

PRAYER OF JESUS CHRIST.

FATHER, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee; as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast

given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. And for their sakes, I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth. Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us; that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold

my glory, which thou hast given me; for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee, but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it; that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONAL MEDITATIONS.

ORDER OF COLLATION.

READING I.

Meditations on God's Word.

Psalm	1	ver.	1, 2, 3.
,,	12	,,	6.
,,	18	,,	30.
,,	19	,,	7, 8, 9, 10, 11.
,,	25	,,	8, 10, 14, 9.
,,	32	,,	1, 2.
,,	33	,,	4, 5, 18.
,,	85	,,	9, 10, 11, 12, 13.
,,	89	,,	52.

PRAYER I.

For grace, guidance, and protection.

Psalm	5	ver.	1, 2, 3.
,,	16	,,	1.
,,	17	,,	8, 5, 6, 7.
,,	25	,,	1, 4, 5, 6, 7.
,,	26	,,	2.
,,	31	,,	1, 2, 7, 16.
,,	43	,,	3, 4.
,,	63	,,	1, 3, 4, 6, 7.
,,	119	,,	17, 18, 36, 37.
,,	,,	,,	105, 142, 156.
,,	19	,,	14.

READING II.

Sunday Morning meditations.

Psalm	11	ver.	4.
,,	24	,,	3, 4.
,,	27	,,	4, 5.
,,	48	,,	1, 2, 3.
,,	91	,,	1.
,,	118	,,	19, 24, 26.
,,	87	,,	2, 3, 5, 6.
,,	89	,,	7, 6, 18.
,,	122	,,	1, 2, 6, 4.
,,	,,	,,	7, 9.
,,	24	,,	9, 10.

PRAYER II.

For God's presence and blessing in his house.

Psalm	84	ver.	1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 9.
,,	65	,,	1, 2, 4.
,,	66	,,	13, 14.
,,	26	,,	8, 12.
,,	119	,,	142, 160, 165.
,,	,,	,,	90, 130, 151.
,,	,,	,,	137, 138, 174.
,,	,,	,,	41, 49, 50.
,,	,,	,,	59, 68, 72.
,,	,,	,,	73, 76, 97.
,,	,,	,,	103, 171, 176, 133.
,,	132	,,	8, 9.

READING III.

God's goodness, power, and glory in his works.

Psalm	47	ver.	1, 6, 7, 8.
,,	46	,,	9.
,,	50	,,	1, 4.
,,	66	,,	1, 2.
,,	68	,,	4.
,,	66	,,	8, 9.
,,	68	,,	5.
,,	72	,,	2, 4, 13, 14, 8, 3.
,,	97	,,	1, 4, 5, 6.
,,	147	,,	12,13,14,16,17,18.
,,	148	,,	1,2,3,4,5,6,11,12.
,,	150	,,	6.

PRAYER III.

Prayer and thanks for God's provident care and tender mercies.

Psalm	119	ver.	89, 90, 91, 36.
,,	36	,,	5, 6.
,,	31	,,	19, 20.
,,	44	,,	1.
,,	68	,,	7, 8, 9, 10.
,,	89	,,	8, 9, 11, 12.
,,	,,	,,	13, 14, 15, 16.
,,	66	,,	4.
,,	77	,,	13, 14.
,,	82	,,	8.
,,	86	,,	9, 10.
,,	92	,,	1, 2, 5.
,,	102	,,	25, 26, 27.

READING IV.

Gods power, guardianship, and protection.

Psalm	19	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
„	81	„	1.
„	65	„	6, 7.
„	103	„	19, 20, 21, 22.
„	104	„	31, 32, 13, 14, 10, 11.
„	„	„	12, 19, 23, 21, 22.
„	107	„	8, 9, 23, 24, 25, 26.
„	„	„	27, 28, 29, 33, 34.
„	„	„	35, 36, 37, 38, 39.
„	„	„	40, 41, 31.
„	146	„	10.

PRAYER IV.

Prayer and thanksgiving for God's goodness, protecting power, and providence.

Psalm	8	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
„	21	„	13.
„	22	„	4, 5.
„	28	„	9.
„	31	„	19, 20.
„	32	„	6.
„	36	„	7, 8, 9.
„	40	„	5.
„	45	„	6.
„	60	„	4.
„	65	„	1, 2.

READING V.

God all-seeing, almighty, and all-sustaining.

Psalm	9	ver.	11.
„	22	„	28.
„	24	„	1, 2, 7, 10.
„	18	„	10, 11, 9, 8, 12, 13, 14, [15.
„	24	„	10.
„	29	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11.
„	33	„	6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12.
„	146	„	10.
„	50	„	1, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 23.
„	98	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
„	150	„	6.
„	146	„	1.

PRAYER V.

Prayer and thanks for God's almighty and all-sustaining power, grace, and providence.

Psalm	65	ver.	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.
„	104	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 24.
„	74	„	13, 14, 15, 16, 17.
„	68	„	18, 19.
„	76	„	8, 9, 6, 10.
„	74	„	20, 21.
„	79	„	11.
„	57	„	5.
„	89	„	5.
„	79	„	13.

READING VI.

Family and social meditations on God's protecting power, goodness, and blessing.

Psalm	30	ver.	4, 5.
„	32	„	11.
„	33	„	1.
„	46	„	1, 2, 3, 7.
„	„	„	4, 5.
„	48	„	8, 12, 13, 14.
„	67	„	7.
„	68	„	19, 20.
„	95	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
„	96	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.
„	100	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

PRAYER VI.

Thanks for God's protecting power, and prayer for his daily blessing.

Psalm	67	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
„	75	„	1.
„	85	„	7.
„	74	„	2.
„	80	„	1, 3.
„	79	„	9, 13.
„	90	„	14.
„	115	„	1.
„	145	„	10, 11, 4.
„	144	„	12, 13, 14.

READING VII.

God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand.

Psalm	145	ver.	3.
„	146	„	2.
„	16	„	8, 9.
„	34	„	9, 10.
„	37	„	3, 4, 8.
„	41	„	1, 2, 3.
„	68	„	32, 33, 34.
„	76	„	1, 2.
„	82	„	1, 3, 4.
„	94	„	9, 10, 11, 15.
„	102	„	18.
„	99	„	1, 2, 5.
„	105	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.
„	111	„	3, 5, 7, 8, 1.
„	112	„	4, 5, 6.
„	113	„	2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
„	125	„	1, 2.
„	135	„	2, 3, 5, 6, 7.
„	136	„	3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
„	72	„	19.

PRAYER VII.

Thanks and prayer for God's all-seeing eye, hearing ear, and helping hand.

Psalm	139	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18 23, 24.
„	141	„	2, 3, 4, 8.
„	73	„	23, 24, 25.
„	13	„	5.
„	16	„	1, 5, 6.
„	18	„	28, 35, 36, 49.
„	77	„	11, 12.
„	84	„	12, 5.
„	86	„	9, 10, 15.
„	116	„	17.
„	109	„	30.
„	119	„	16.
„	143	„	8, 10, 6.
„	145	„	13, 5, 6, 15, 16, 21.

READING VIII.

Consciousness and confession of sinful dispositions and acts.

Psalm	38	ver.	4, 6.
„	42	„	11.
„	33	„	18.
„	32	„	1, 2, 10.
„	55	„	17.
„	38	„	18.
„	145	„	8, 9.
„	126	„	5, 6.
„	147	„	6.
„	111	„	4, 9, 10.
„	128	„	4, 2, 5.
„	130	„	7, 8.
„	34	„	18.
„	25	„	10, 9, 8, 14, 15.
„	34		12, 13, 14, 16.
„	42		11.

PRAYER VIII.

Confession of sins, and prayer for forgiveness and reconciliation.

Psalm	51	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	„	„	7, 9, 10, 11.
„	„	„	12, 13, 14.
„	„	„	15, 17.
„	141	„	1.
„	32	„	5.
„	143	„	1, 2, 6.
„	130	„	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	119	„	77, 76.
„	„	„	88, 116.
„	„	„	117, 108.
„	„	„	132, 133.
„	42	„	1.
„	57	„	11.

READING IX.

Meditations in affliction and trouble.

Psalm	42	ver.	5.
„	37	„	23, 24, 25.
„	121	„	5, 6, 4, 3, 8, 7.
„	130	„	5, 6.
„	97	„	2.
„	31	„	24.
„	27	„	10.
„	22	„	24, 26.
„	62	„	11, 8.
„	55	„	22.
„	94	„	14.
„	112	„	1, 6, 7.
„	118	„	8, 9, 18.
„	146	„	5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
„	145	„	18, 19.
„	84	„	11.

PRAYER IX.

In affliction, trouble and sorrow.

Psalm	55	ver.	1, 2, 4, 5, 6.
„	57	„	1.
„	61	„	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	69	„	1, 2, 3, 5, 6.
„	„	„	14, 15, 16, 17.
„	71	„	1, 2, 3, 8, 5.
„	86	„	1, 3, 4, 5.
„	88	„	2, 3, 6, 9, 3.
„	109	„	22, 23, 24, 21.
„	119	„	28.
„	142	„	7.
„	118	„	25.

READING X.

Meditations in sickness.

Psalm	62	ver.	1, 2.
„	77	„	6, 7, 8, 9, 10.
„	38	„	10.
„	42	„	11.
„	27	„	1, 5, 13, 14.
„	23	„	1, 2, 3.
„	20	„	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	68	„	20.
„	3	„	4, 5.
„	4	„	4.
„	33	„	4, 5, 11.
„	„	„	13, 14, 15.
„	34	„	19, 20.
„	37	„	5, 6, 18, 19.
„	69	„	33.
„	73	„	26.
„	94	„	17.
„	102	„	16, 17, 19.
„	103	„	13, 14.
„	107	„	9, 10.
„	109	„	22, 23, 24.
„	121	„	1, 2.
„	113	„	7.
„	115	„	13.
„	140	„	12.
„	145	„	14, 19.
„	147	„	9, 11.
„	131	„	3.

PRAYER X.

Prayer in sickness, for patience, resignation, hope, and restoration.

Psalm	102	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
„	6	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
„	102	„	11, 24.
„	22	„	19, 14, 15, 11.
„	25	„	1, 16, 17.
„	27	„	7, 9.
„	30	„	10.
„	31	„	10, 16.
„	38	„	6, 7, 8, 9.
„	„	„	21, 22.
„	39	„	4, 5, 10, 11.
„	„	„	12, 13.
„	40	„	11, 13.
„	56	„	3.
„	71	„	9, 12.
„	77	„	4.
„	86	„	16.
„	106	„	4, 5.
„	119	„	25, 77, 81.
„	„	„	170, 175, 176.
„	70	„	5.
„	39	„	7.
„	23	„	4.

READING XI.

Meditations on recovery and deliverance.

Psalm	18	ver.	2, 6.
„	118	„	5, 14.
„	28	„	6, 7.
„	34	„	3, 8, 4, 7, 6.
„	40	„	1, 2, 3.
„	62	„	5, 6, 7, 8.
„	66	„	16, 17, 19, 20.
„	91	„	2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
„	„	„	9, 10, 11, 12.
„	103	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
„	116	„	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	77	„	1, 2, 3.

PRAYER XI.

Thanks for recovery and deliverance, and petition for gratitude and faith in God.

Psalm	30	ver.	3, 2, 8, 7, 11.
„	31	„	7, 5.
„	32	„	7.
„	35	„	18, 28.
„	63	„	1, 8, 4, 3, 5, 6, 7.
„	66	„	13, 14.
„	71	„	15, 16, 19, 20, 23.
„	119	„	8, 16, 17.
„	138	„	2, 3, 7, 8.
„	119	„	75, 71, 67, 65.
„	„	„	92, 93, 131, 147.
„	„	„	162, 164, 5.
„	86	„	11, 12.

READING XII.

Words and meditations of patriarchs, prophets, and saints, over the grave.

Genesis	3	ver.	19.
„	5	„	29.
„	23	„	2, 3, 4, 5.
„	„	„	6, 19.
„	25	„	8, 9, 10.
„	35	„	28, 29.
„	49	„	28, 29.
„	„	„	31, 33.
„	50	„	1, 12, 13.
„	„	„	24, 25, 26.
Num.	20	„	23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29.
Deut.	32	„	48, 49, 50, 51, 52.
„	34	„	1, 4, 5, 6, 8.
Josh.	24	„	26, 27, 28, 29, 30.
I. Sam.	31	„	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
II. „	1	„	17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27.
„ „	12	„	15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23.
Job	1	„	18, 19, 20, 21.
John	11	„	25, 26.
Luke	2	„	29, 30, 31, 32.
Mark	23	„	42, 43, 46.
Acts	7	„	59, 60.
I. Cor.	15	„	54, 56.
Rev.	21	„	1, 2, 3, 4.
„	22	„	20, 21.

PRAYER XII.

Prayers of the psalmist, prophets, and saints, over the grave.

Psalm	90	ver.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12.
„	89	„	48.
„	10	„	17.
„	79	„	8, 9.
„	80	„	7, 18.
„	85	„	5, 6.
„	135	„	13.
„	144	„	3, 4.
„	37	„	2.
„	8	„	4.
„	33	„	22.
„	67	„	1.
Job	29	„	2, 3, 4, 5.
„	7	„	20, 1, 2, 3, 4.
„	„	„	5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 17, 18.
„	10	„	2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12.
„	14	„	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 14.
„	19	„	25, 26, 27.
„	13	„	15.
Isaiah	25	„	1, 4, 9, 8.
„	26	„	3, 7, 8, 9, 12, 16.
„	29	„	19.
„	33	„	2.
„	40	„	6, 7, 8, 29.
„	51	„	9, 10, 11.

PRAYER XII., *continued.*

Isaiah	63	ver.	16.
„	64	„	6, 8, 9.
„	12	„	2.
Jerem.	10	„	23, 24.
„	12	„	1.
„	14	„	7, 8.
„	17	„	13, 14, 17.
„	32	„	17, 18, 19.
Lamen.	1	„	20.
„	3	„	17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22.
Lamen.	3	ver.	23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31.
„	„	„	32, 33, 56, 57, 58.
„	5	„	14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 19.
Dan.	9	„	4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 19.
Jonah	2	„	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.
Hab.	3	„	2, 7, 10, 11, 13, 17, 19.
„	1	„	12.
John	17	„	from 1 to 26.

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